

O P I N I O N

Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer’s name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is 10 a.m. Monday.

Campers and trash

To the Editor:
We live adjacent to Road 100, the paved connector edging USFS lands between Northwest Pine Street and Highway 20: a lovely little piece of woods to walk dogs, ride bikes, jog and hike — except that it’s not anymore.
These woods, long known as a convenient place for “dispersed camping” are increasingly being used for long-term habitation, and in the process our (as in “We The People”) forest is being trashed, and occasionally used for

criminal activity. The atmosphere is rapidly becoming increasingly uncomfortable. Why? Long-term campers who have no regard for the “two-week stay” rule overstay and distribute feces, garbage, drug paraphernalia and, recently, more and more cast-off bits of luggage that looks as if it was stolen, rifled through and dumped.
We nearby residents, and many daily drive-in visitors, frequent the area daily, and we see that the problems noted have taken a dramatic uptick in this past year. While many of

See LETTERS on page 29

Ensure the health and safety of unsheltered

By George Myers
Guest Columnist

Bill Bartlett and *The Nugget* chose to run a column last week spotlighting one of our local family’s winter housing situation, living in a trailer and tent just outside of the Sisters city limits.

The most glaring element lacking in the column was the omission that the person or people being spotlighted, including the photo of their home, were not interviewed, or able share their side of the story in the column. This was a lopsided story, and a misleading subject. I question the author’s real intent or concern with the misleading headline of forest health or safety.

However, I agree with Bill. I enjoy walking in our community, and I can feel uncomfortable walking past places that feel threatening to me. For example, I feel that way about the houses in Sisters displaying Confederate flags. I purposely avoid walking in that area, where I feel unsafe. There is another home I am always unhappy seeing which has a huge collection of junk cars, a sailboat and dozens of other items left outdoors year-round.

As Sisters grows, we need to rid ourselves of these eyesores. I suggest that Bill, working with *The Nugget*, share a photo each week of someone’s home we don’t feel meets our standards, and publicly shame them. After we have worked through the junk in the yards, we can move onto woodpiles that are not neatly stacked, and finally gardens needing weeding or pine needles that should be raked up. Working together we can put peer pressure on all those who don’t live as we do. (I hope all will read this as sarcasm, and also a slippery slope.)

Ian Reid and his team do an exceptional job balancing the realities our houseless neighbors face and protecting the public resources of our National Forest. Ian is actively at the table working with homeless advocates and we share common agreement that “no one should live in the forest.” Bill seems

to imply that if the USFS just forced out all the trailers and tents from the area, the garbage, drug paraphernalia, and human waste would all disappear. I’m sure Ian would say that is unlikely, and it is a ridiculous insult to assume the trash, beer cans, household waste, tires, and more that are found on forest land is all coming from the homeless camps. But just a reminder, this family has no hook-ups available, and no trash service they can pay for.

The City has also been at the table around this issue, and I joined a team of folks last spring walking on USFS land just north of Williamson Avenue. There were no trailers or tents out there that day, but residents had begun complaining that the backyards of their new expensive homes overlooking places where people were camping; sometimes overnight, sometimes longer. One insight this group learned was the primitive forest service roads had existed for decades, and people had been camping in this area of town for years as evidenced by the rusted “can dumps” we located.

Anytime the homeless advocates have asked for permission to place a dumpster or a porta-potty to help reduce the trash on either city or forest service, we are met with a flat “no.” We will provide toilets for bikers and hikers, but not for the homeless.

Last month *The Nugget* reported on our two local citizens arrested for blasting a vehicle at an encampment just outside of town. This was not an isolated incident, just one that was reported and thankfully ended in an apprehension and criminal charges. Bill worries that there are often dogs guarding these camps: that is true because the people living out in the forest are routinely harassed, or have items stolen or damaged. Talk about safety!

My opinion is that perhaps instead of Mr. Bartlett’s concern about the health of the forest, we should first ensure the health and safety of fellow humans living unsheltered and outdoors.

Views expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or *The Nugget Newspaper*.

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday

Mostly Sunny

59/34



Thursday

Partly Cloudy

52/27



Friday

Mostly Sunny

59/30



Saturday

Partly Cloudy

47/23



Sunday

Mostly Sunny

56/28



Monday

Mostly Sunny

60/32



Tuesday

Mostly Sunny

63/35



The Nugget Newspaper, LLC

Website: www.nuggetnews.com

442 E. Main Ave., P.O. Box 698, Sisters, Oregon 97759

Tel: 541-549-9941 | Email: editor@nuggetnews.com



Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Nugget Newspaper,
P.O. Box 698, Sisters, OR 97759.

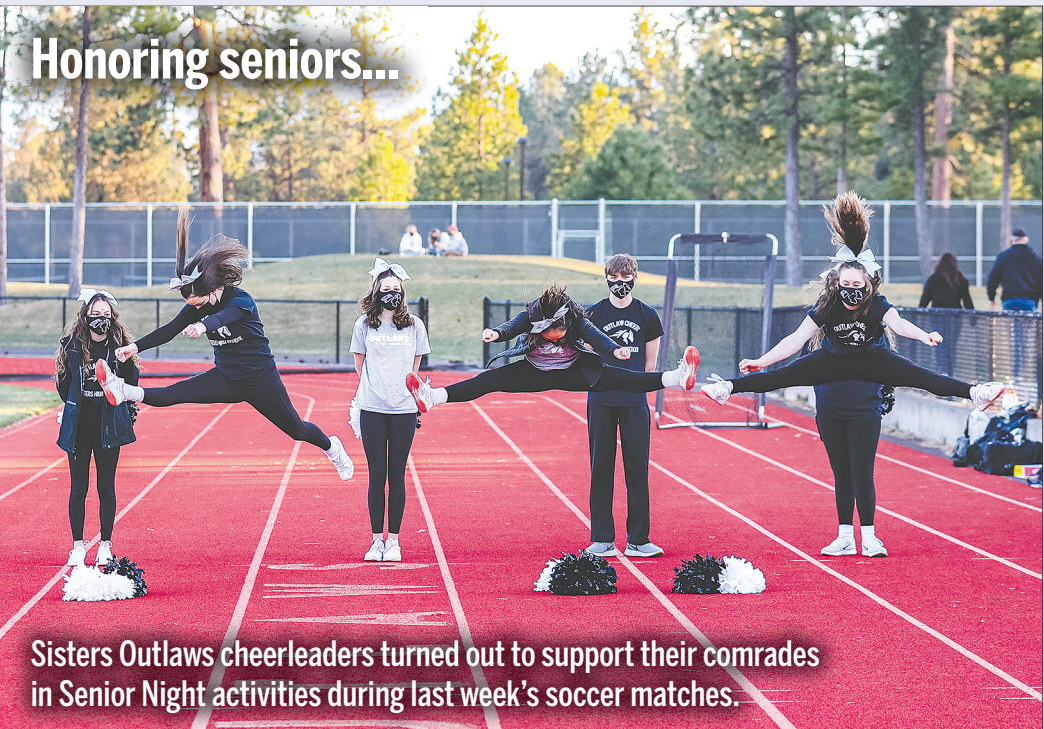
Third Class Postage Paid at Sisters, Oregon.

The Nugget is mailed to residents within the Sisters School District; subscriptions are available outside delivery area.
Third-class postage: one year, \$55; six months (or less), \$30. First-class postage: one year, \$95; six months, \$65.

Published Weekly. ©2021 The Nugget Newspaper, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. All advertising which appears in The Nugget is the property of The Nugget and may not be used without explicit permission. The Nugget Newspaper, LLC. assumes no liability or responsibility for information contained in advertisements, articles, stories, lists, calendar etc. within this publication. All submissions to The Nugget Newspaper will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyrighting purposes and subject to The Nugget Newspaper’s unrestricted right to edit and comment editorially, that all rights are currently available, and that the material in no way infringes upon the rights of any person. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return or safety of artwork, photos, or manuscripts.

Editor in Chief: Jim Cornelius
Production Manager: Leith Easterling
Creative Director: Jess Draper
Community Marketing Partner: Vicki Curlett
Classifieds & Circulation: Lisa May
Owner: J. Louis Mullen

Honoring seniors...



Sisters Outlaws cheerleaders turned out to support their comrades in Senior Night activities during last week’s soccer matches.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Got a great photo of life in
Sisters Country?

Send your photo to editor@nuggetnews.com.